



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

37225

9/19/83

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

SUBJECT: Authorization to Proceed with Remedial Planning
Activities at the Asbestos Dump Site, Millington,
New Jersey--ACTION MEMORANDUM

FROM: Gene A. Lucero, Director *Gene A. Lucero*
Office of Waste Programs Enforcement

TO: Lee M. Thomas
Assistant Administrator

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to request authorization to proceed with an enforcement-lead remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) at the Asbestos Dump Site, Millington, New Jersey. Through prior agreement with the State of New Jersey the Environmental Protection Agency will take the lead for the RI/FS activities.

BACKGROUND

The Asbestos Dump is an abandoned 3.4 acre dump site located on a 12 acre tract of land adjacent to the Passaic River. The site is the result of years of dumping by several asbestos processing companies. Since the time the dumping ceased, the site was covered with soil and seeded. Although the base of the dump along the river bank had been reinforced with riprap, erosion and weathering have exposed areas of asbestos on the approximately 60° unreinforced upper slope. The former site owner has restabilized the river bank and asbestos hill several times, pursuant to an agreement it has with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the current site owner.

In addition to the asbestos dump, several lagoons were located on the site which were used as a part of the former owner's waste-water treatment system. These lagoons, which were covered during subsequent site regrading, may have contained toxic residues from the manufacture of urethane foam and the application of acrylic coatings to asbestos shingles. An allegation has been made by a former company employee that phenylmercuric acetate has been disposed of on the site.

Three other asbestos dumping areas have been identified in the vicinity of the Millington site, however, no direct link to the Millington site has yet been established. The first area is located off New Vernon Road near Myersville, New Jersey; the second is behind

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651 White Bridge Road near the Black Brook; the third is along a hiking trail in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge itself. Asbestos waste is exposed on the ground surface at all three sites.

ENFORCEMENT see attached

PROPOSED PROJECT

Investigative studies must be performed at the Millington site to determine the extent of air, soil, surface water and ground-water contamination. The New Vernon Road, White Bridge Road, and the Wildlife Refuge Trail sites need to be studied in order to establish a direct link to the Millington site, and to determine the extent of air, soil, and surface water contamination. A feasibility study will be undertaken to develop the long-term, cost-effective cleanup alternative for the site.

The preliminary cost estimates of the proposed actions are:

Remedial Investigation \$350,000

Feasibility Study \$150,000
 \$500,000

It is estimated that the above studies should be completed within ten (10) months. Negotiations with responsible parties will be undertaken following the completion of the studies.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend authorization to proceed with a remedial investigation and feasibility study for the Asbestos Dump Site.

I am available to discuss this request in more detail at your convenience.

(NPL site) Approve _____
Disapprove _____

Date

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